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THE GRAY WOLF

OF

SOUTH DAKOTA

By Bud Dalrymple

(Illustrated)

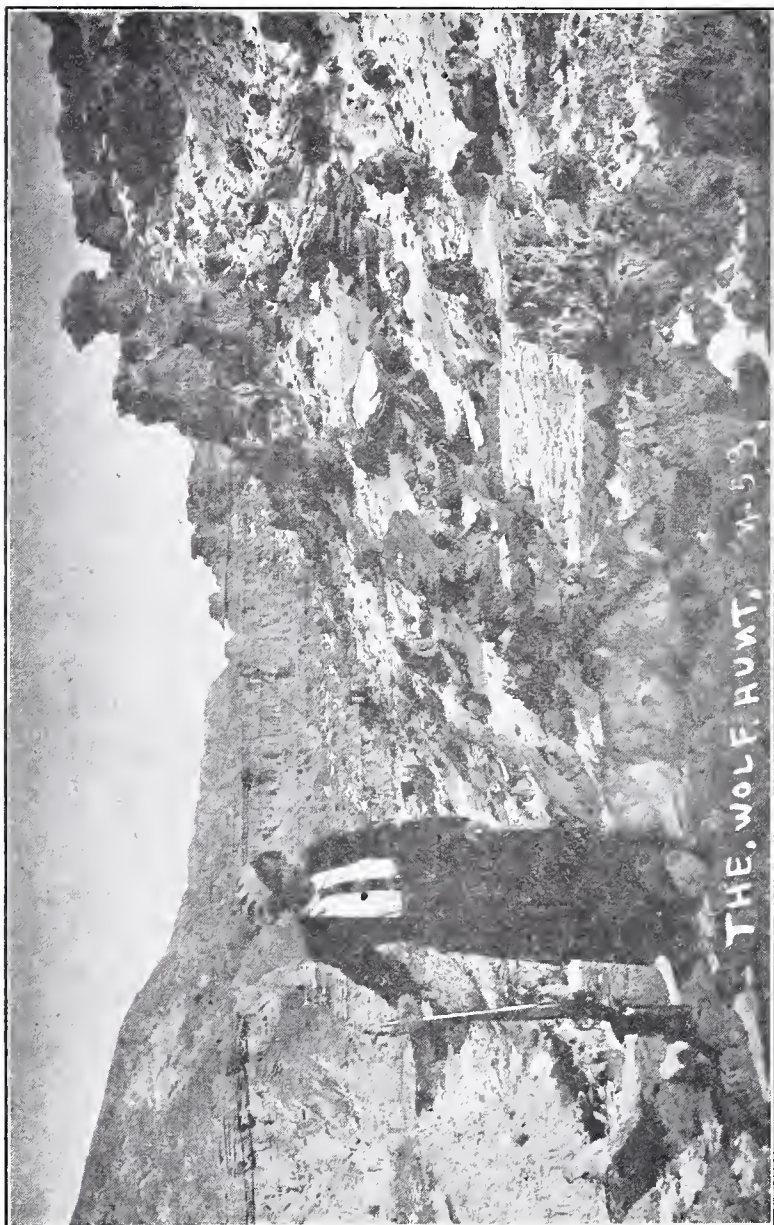


With a Preface by
Henry W. Shoemaker

ALTOONA, PENNA., 1919

COMPLIMENTS OF
HENRY W. SHOEMAKER
1110 TWELFTH STREET
ALTOONA, PA





The Author's Side Partner and Wolf Which They Killed. This Wolf Was Mentioned in "National Sportsman" of July, 1915.

(FRONTISPIECE)

THE GRAY WOLF

OF

SOUTH DAKOTA

BY

BUD DALRYMPLE

Wolfer, of Scenic, S. D.,

With a Preface by

HENRY W. SHOEMAKER

Author of "Wolf Days in Pennsylvania."

Fully Illustrated

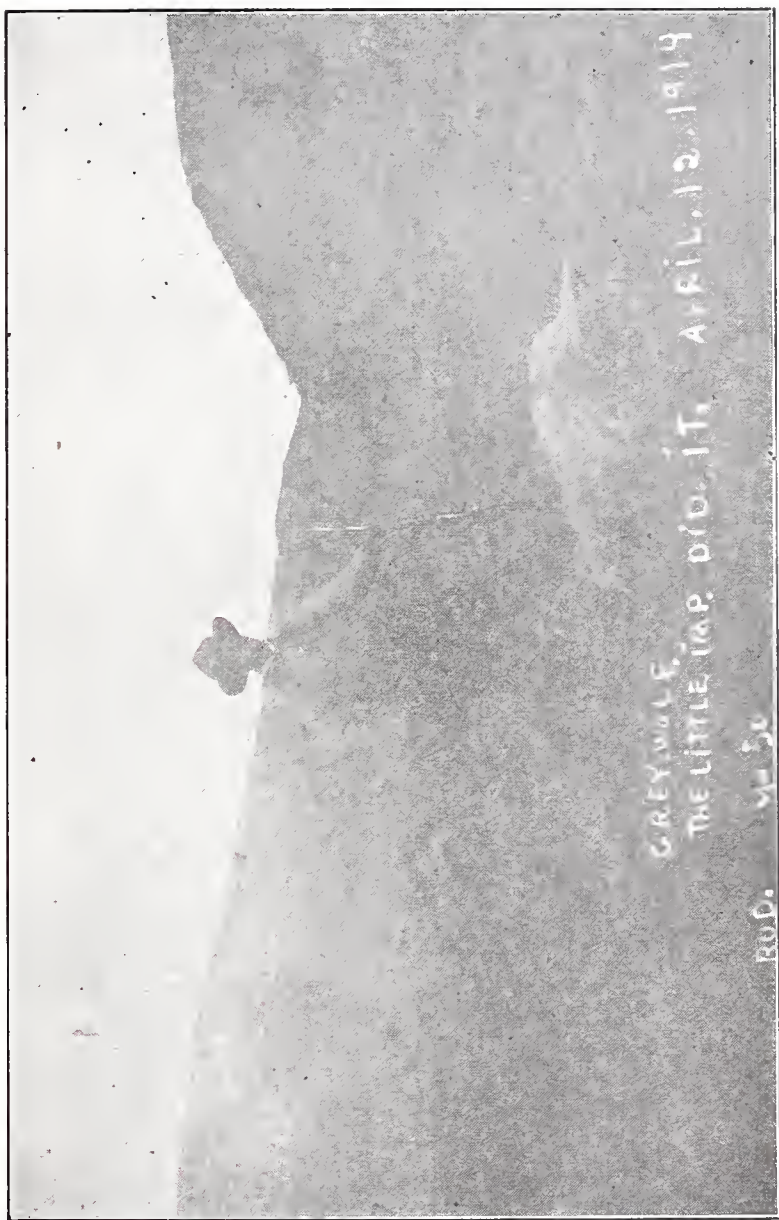


ALTOONA, PENNA.

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GREYHOLE.
THE LITTLE TAP DID IT. APRIL 12, 1919

R.D. VI-50

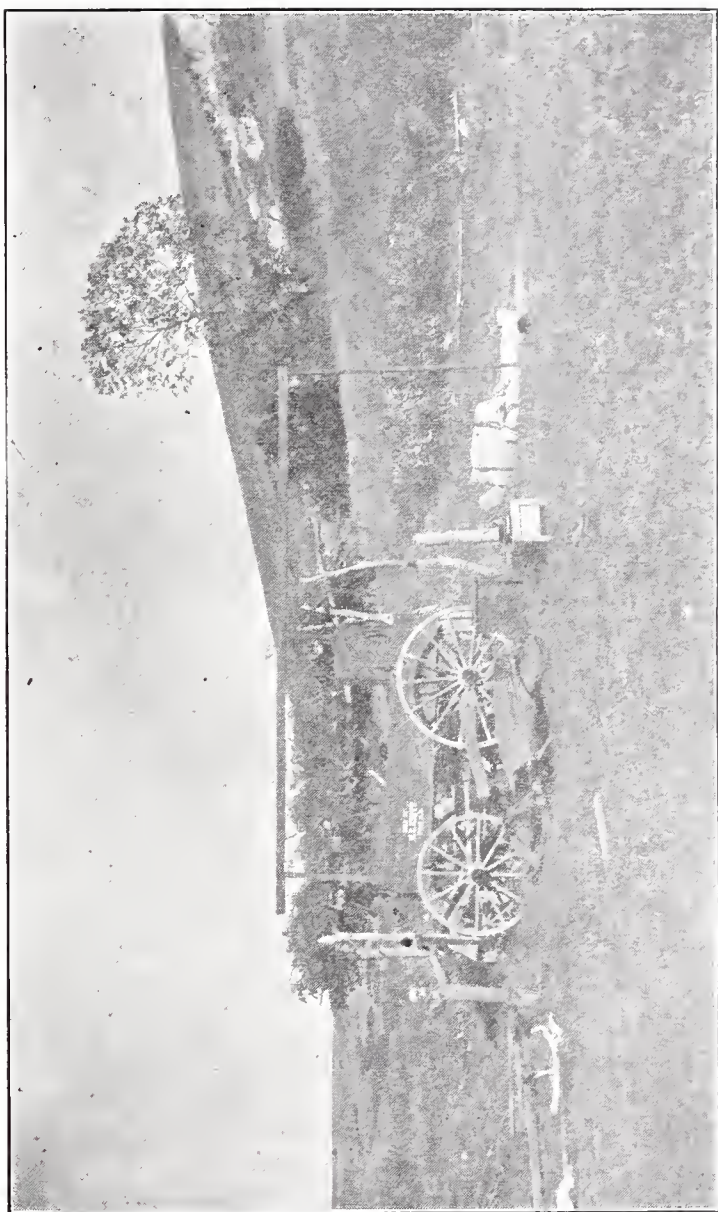
A SUNSET TRIUMPH IN THE BAD LANDS.
(Rifle Used, Savage 22 Hi Power, Malcolm Telescope Sight.)



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WOLFER'S CAMP, READY TO PUT UP TENT.



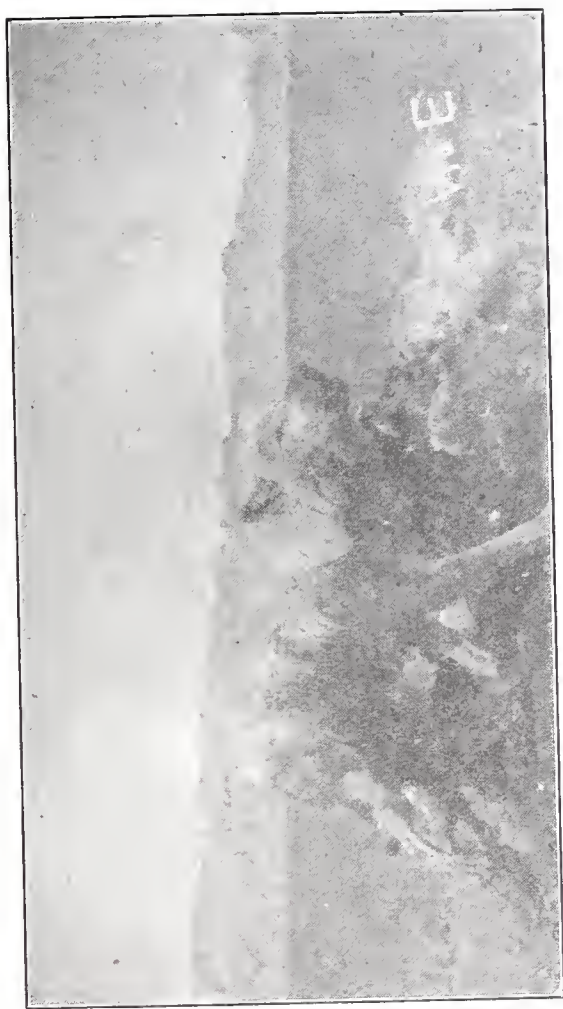
PREFACE

The writer of this preface to Bud Dalrymple's interesting booklet, "The Gray Wolf of South Dakota," owes an apology, not only to Mr. Dalrymple, but to Dr. Nugent, of Altoona (who called the work to his attention), for his tardiness in publishing the manuscript. Many have been the causes for the delay, but it is gratifying to feel that this little story, with its unique illustrations, is at last to see the light. Brief as the story is, it grips the reader, and few hunting narratives, except, perhaps, Jules Gerard's "Adventures With Lions," have so much original charm. But underneath this thrilling account of wild western life is the undercurrent of cruelty which must accompany a tale of the annihilation of a species. In this case we can console ourselves, first that the author himself expresses regret at having to kill the wolves, and, second, that the wolves destroyed were outlaws, renegades in a stock country, where in the Wise Balance of Nature they had no right to be. But the wolf is a gallant animal, if we take him as a race, and even when practicing evil deeds the little sidelights on his home life and devotion to trapped mates makes the reader realize that all animals are our brother spirits, and that the best traits that we possess are shared by members of the animal world. As war, despite its record of carnage, brings out all that is most red-blooded in mankind, the sport of the chase also develops true manli-

ness and courage. Unfair war, like unfair hunting methods, should be avoided by all. Poisoning wolves is as bad as when the Germans poured strychnine into wells in Alsace before the French advance in 1914. It is a pleasure to read Mr. Dalrymple's modest recital of great achievements, and in putting it down one can only hope that the author and also the tribe of *canis lupus* will never grow less.

HENRY W. SHOEMAKER.





Gray Wolf Caught by Author, at Carcass of Saddle Horse, Killed by Wolves, Bad Lands "Wall" in Distance. Photo Taken Just as Wolf Barked.

CHAPTER I.

HAVING read a great many letters asking about the gray wolf of South Dakota and the Bad Lands, and having made it a special business for over twelve years to hunt and trap wolves for the large stockmen through the Bad Lands and vicinity, I decided to publish a small book on "How to Hunt and Trap the Wolf, the Stockmen's Greatest Enemy."

"Look at that big 3-year-old steer, with his thighs all torn out. Might as well kill him. Those wolves must have a den over there in the Bad Lands; they keep coming down here nearly every night," said the manager of a large stock ranch. "Wish we could find the den."

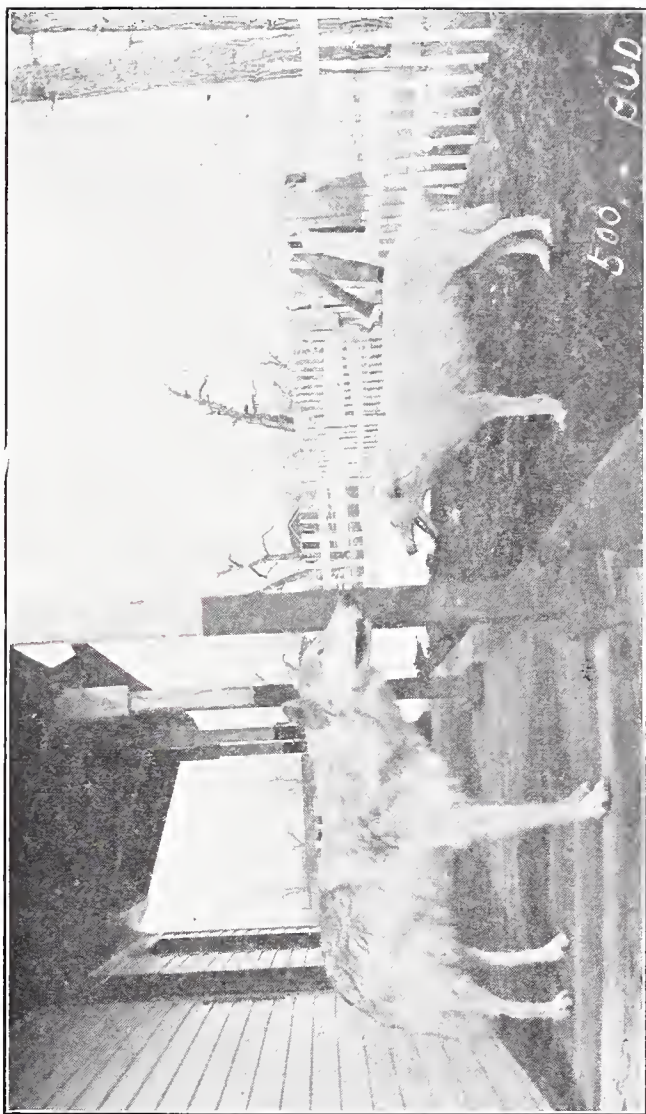
Well, he and his hired men saddle up and ride over to the Bad Lands, where they think the wolf's den is; but, as the ground is dry and hard, and they are not experienced in this line of work, they likely ride within sixty rods or less of the den, but fail to find it. A gray wolf's den is not always an easy thing to find in a country so rough that even on foot a fellow has to do some hard climbing to get anywhere near to some places in the Bad Lands; but the gray wolf seems to climb up and around the high buttes with ease, even with a heavy New House No. 4½ wolf trap on one of his feet.

The gray wolf is very fond of colt or horse meat and prefers it to beef, although he is not the least backward about eating beef. They are a good deal

like sheep-killing dogs; sometimes they will kill three or four cattle in one night, and likely will only eat a few pounds of meat out of each animal, maybe leaving some of them before they are dead—just eating out a few pounds of the animal's rear parts, leaving it to be finished by the coyotes or else die a lingering death. Sometimes a steer or cow chewed up in this manner will be able to get away from the wolf and will live for two or three weeks or more and then die from the effects of the bite, which seems to be very poisonous, especially if the animal is badly scratched and not torn out entirely. The wound seems to partly heal, then puff up, turn a greenish cast, and the animal soon dies. I have seen where an animal had a chunk of flesh torn clear off of its thigh by a wolf and get entirely over it, although the scar always stays with the animal. Several years ago a lone gray wolf went through my pasture one night, bit a chunk out of two colts, each on the thigh, and both of these animals recovered, except for the scar. Again, where an animal is only scratched by the wolf's teeth, it sometimes dies. While the pups are being fed by the old wolves is when they do the most killing. The old wolf keeps them in a den until they are about seven or eight weeks old, then she moves them around from place to place, keeping them mostly around some cedar brush and rocks in a rough country. When the pups are large enough to play, they come out of the den, and, as they grow older, will go several rods from the den; but at the least strange noise all will scurry for the



BOB CAT CAUGHT BY AUTHOR, BAD LANDS.



IN THE AUTHOR'S YARD, SCENIC, S. D.
Two Wolves Killed and Mounted by Author. N. B.—They Won't Bite.

den and simply pile over each other in their haste to get in. They are very clumsy when small and roll around like a ball. They are a real dark brown when born, and as they grow older get lighter in color; and sometimes a wolf that is well along in years—say over 20—will be clear white. I have killed a few that were so old their teeth were worn down so a person would wonder how they could kill a big steer or cow.

Several years ago, while wolfing for the NT outfit, a lone old she-wolf came into a pasture and killed a nice yearling colt. There was a little snow on the ground at the time, and the next morning the colt lay dead about two hundred yards from the corral. I went out and examined him and found the wolf had eaten several pounds of his rear parts. The tracks showed that the old wolf had approached the colt while he was lying down and made several circles around the colt, each time coming a little closer. The colt must have been asleep, as the wolf finally crept up behind the colt and grabbed him by the thigh. The colt jumped up and dragged the wolf some ten rods; then he fell, and the wolf, still hanging on, eat out his rear parts. I went and got three No. 4 traps, took some sage bush and smoked them well. Then I took my little ax and chopped out three places in the ground—one just back of the colt about three feet, and one on each side. After removing all the chunks of frozen dirt, I set a trap in each place. Then I got some dry, fine dirt and covered each trap, chain, pin and all. Then I took a sage bush and brushed a little light snow

over all, and the next night no wolf showed up, but on the second night it snowed and blowed and was very cold, and, on going out to the carcass the next morning, I found that I had caught the old gray. She had been making regular trips through the pasture for some time, and after I caught this one, and the tracks failed to appear any more, I made up my mind she was the one that killed the colt. As a rule, they don't go back to a critter for a second meal, preferring to kill another one and eat the warm meat. But, as I said before, they are very fond of horse flesh. And, also, contrary to what some would-be wolfers will tell you, they *do*, at times, eat meat that is entirely spoiled. This, as a rule, though, is some wolf that is soon to have pups and is not in shape to kill a strong animal, and possibly her mate has met with bad luck and stepped in a No. 4 or a bullet has laid him low. The old male helps feed the pups, same as the female, while the pups are small, but I think he does not go in the den. I have killed several old females in dens, but have never found an old male wolf in a den, though I have shot and also caught them close to a den. A very good way to catch either the male or female wolf is to take a dead wolf pup, stake it down some fifty or seventy-five yards from the den and set a No. 4, or, still better, a $4\frac{1}{2}$ wolf trap, on each side about two feet away from the pup. I have always had good luck in getting the old wolf this way. The most trouble in this case is the turkey buzzard. They are regular dead animal scavengers, and will likely get in the trap before



LIVE WOLF PUPS TAKEN FROM DEN BY AUTHOR

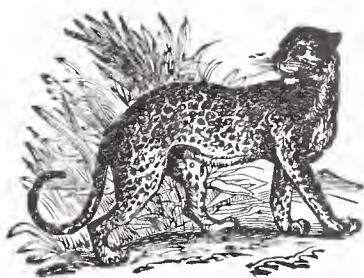
the wolf comes around. In case there are lots of these birds, set the traps, say eight or ten feet away from the dead pup, and in places where you think the old wolf would be likely to step. In fastening traps for wolves, I use a steel pin, eighteen to thirty inches long, made from the common hayrake teeth. Heat them and straighten, sharpen one end and put a head on the other end. If traps are rusty, take some good gun oil and oil all the working parts and before setting them get some sage brush or cedar and smoke them well. If you buy the S New House No. 4 steel trap, which is the trap used by nearly all the wolfers, take a hammer and break the big round ring on end of chain and take some good wire, about the size of bailing wire, and make a loop or ring just so the pin will go through freely. Use about four strands of this size wire; and if using the S New House No. $4\frac{1}{2}$ wolf trap, cut off the long chain to about sixteen inches, as you don't want to pack all this chain and heavy drag around. The $4\frac{1}{2}$ trap, on account of its weight, is not used very much. Also it is more apt to hold a small calf or colt; more so than the No. 4, and, as the wolves follow the horse and cattle trails, there is the place to set your traps. The stock will throw or spring a good many of them, but if you are using seventy-five or one hundred traps and have two or three good saddle horses, you can keep a good share of them set, although I have used some pretty hard language at the range stock for going over my traps and springing them just before a wolf came along.

A person would naturally think even the No. 4 trap would hold stock often, but in my twelve years of trapping wolves I have always trapped right where the horses and cattle ranged, every day finding a number of traps sprung by them, and I have only held one cow and one late calf. The cow was quite hard to get the trap off of. I had to rope her, as she had pulled the pin and was over in a bunch of range cattle. The calf could not pull the pin, and I tied his feet with my throw-rope and let him loose. Let me say, though, that when setting your traps on the stock trails, if you set the traps so that the jaws are lengthwise, not crosswise, of the trail, if a calf or colt is following the trail and steps in the trap, it is not very apt to hold him on account of the shape of the animal's leg just above the hoof. The No. 14 trap, the deer trap, is more apt to hold a calf or colt, on account of the teeth on the jaws. I have some of these No. 14 traps, but do not like them as well as the No. 4 smooth jaws. You have to put too much dirt on them in order to cover up the teeth. When setting traps for wolves, always set two in each place, as it is hard to hold a gray with one trap; also, he may step over one trap and step into the other one. A good wolf scent is a help, especially during January and February, the mating time of the wolf. I make my own wolf scent. There may be some good wolf scent on the market. I have tried several different brands, though, and must say they were complete failures. If the trails are traveled a good deal by the stock, and are dusty, a good way is



Two Wolves Caught in One Setting of Trap, by the Author Photo Taken Just as
They Fell When Shot.

to tie your lariat or throw-rope on to a chunk of wood, or take an old sack and fill it one-third full of dirt; now get on your horse and drag this over the trail, setting your traps, say every fifty or sixty rods on the trail where you have made the drag. A wolf is a curious animal, and will follow the mark made by the drag, and will be apt to get caught. A leg off of a dead cow or horse makes a still better drag, and sometimes where you have traps set by a carcass and the wolves do not go near it, tie your rope on to it and drag it a few feet and set traps on the drag. I have fooled a wise old wolf this way many times. When you catch a wolf, don't move the trap, as I have caught several grays and coyotes in the same place.



CHAPTER II.

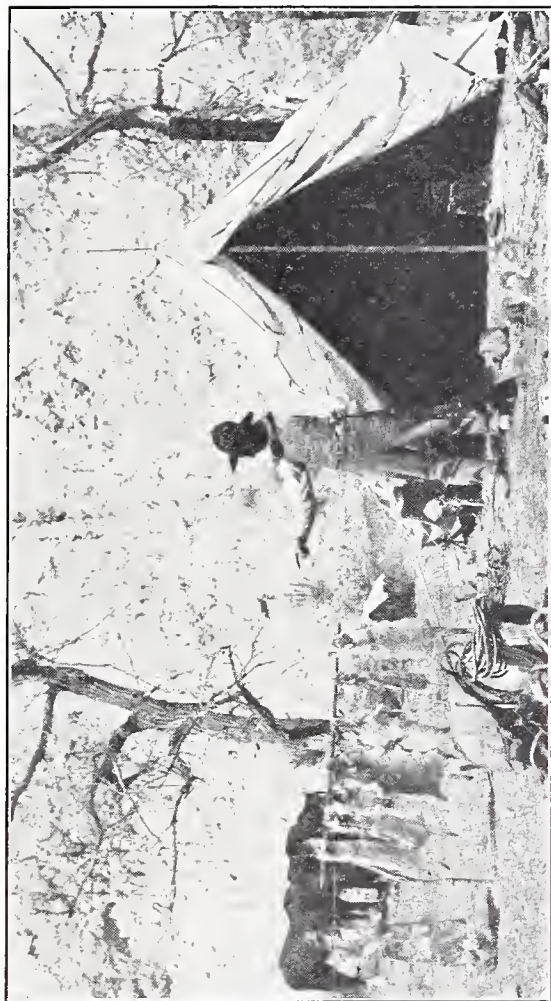
HOW A WOLFER SHOULD DRESS

IN hunting wolves, like other wild animals, a suit of clothes as near the color of the surrounding country or objects is much the best; and where a person rides in the saddle, like a wolf hunter must, nothing better than a corduroy suite of tan color can be had; also a pair of oiled calfskin schappes. These schappes are almost a necessity, as a trapper or hunter often gets down on one knee to make a long rifle shot or set his traps, and often is lucky or unlucky enough to kneel on a bunch of cactus, which will make him say things not allowable in print. A pair of these schappes will wear at least five to seven years, even if worn regularly in cool weather, and are fine in cold, stormy weather. But do not get them covered with angora, or you will have the nicest mess of burrs, weeds, dirt and all manner of trash tangled up in the angora wool that you ever saw, and will take much of your time to pick it out. These angora-covered schappes are all right for the "101" show, but not for a wolfer to wear.

When trapping for wolves, don't go around to your traps every day. Once in two, or, better still, three days, is sufficient, and you will have much better luck than if you look at them so often. I have often thought if a spring of the right strength to hold up rabbits, skunk, etc., could be fastened under the pan of a wolf trap, it would be a great help to a wolfer, as



MESS BOX IN WOLFER'S TENT.



THE AUTHOR AND HIS CAMP,
With Some Wolf Pups on the Pole. Photo Taken Against Bad Lands "Wall."

a rabbit many times hops down the trail and gets in the trap, and Mr. Wolf comes along later on and sees the rabbit, also he sees the trap, and will remember, when he comes by there later on, that he saw a trap there. Now, don't laugh and say, "Pshaw! A wolf don't know that much." Try to trap him and see. I will admit that there are some wolves—mostly young wolves, though—that are not any wiser in regard to traps than a coyote, but this is not the rule. A rough country, where there are long creeks or ravines, is the best place to trap for wolves; also coyotes. Set your traps on the trails made by them and the stock, and in the winter time make your settings on the high places, so when it snows the wind will usually blow the snow away from your traps. If there are two trails running side by side, like a wagon road, and you only wish to make one setting, take some cactus and throw them in one path and set your traps in the other path just opposite, and Mr. Wolf or Coyote will turn and go around the cactus and likely step in your traps.



CHAPTER III.

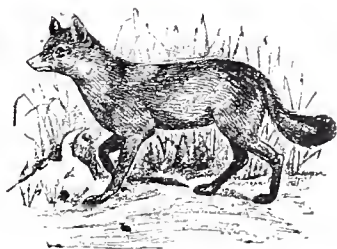
A GOOD OUTFIT FOR A WOLFER TO START WITH

THREE good saddle horses, gentle and broke to stand when you shoot—that is, not pull out and leave you. I very seldom shoot from the saddle unless chasing a wolf, as there is no certainty of hitting a wolf or coyote with a bullet, any distance, when shooting from the saddle, even if your horse is gentle, as he may draw a long breath, or move just as you pull the trigger. A set of medium weight harness, a good saddle, not under thirty-five pounds; a light wagon; a good camp stove, with malleable top, the tin or sheet-iron top all bending. Have a tinsmith make you an 8-foot stovepipe out of heavy galvanized material to fit your stove. A 10-ounce double-weight wall tent. I use a 12x16 size, with sod cloth around bottom. A stockman's bed sheet or tarp. of 18-ounce duck, size 7x14, and a few good blankets make a good bed. Take some $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch smooth lumber and make a mess box to fit in the rear end of the wagon box; make the door so it drops down, serving the purpose of a table. Get at least seventy-five No. 4 New House traps. Make pins for same, as I have referred to before, and make a few extra pins, as you will not be able to pull all pins driven in hard Bad Land soil, and when changing or moving traps you will break a pin now and then. I use a small steel bar with claw to fit over pin under



Wolf and Bob Cat Caught and Mounted by the Author.

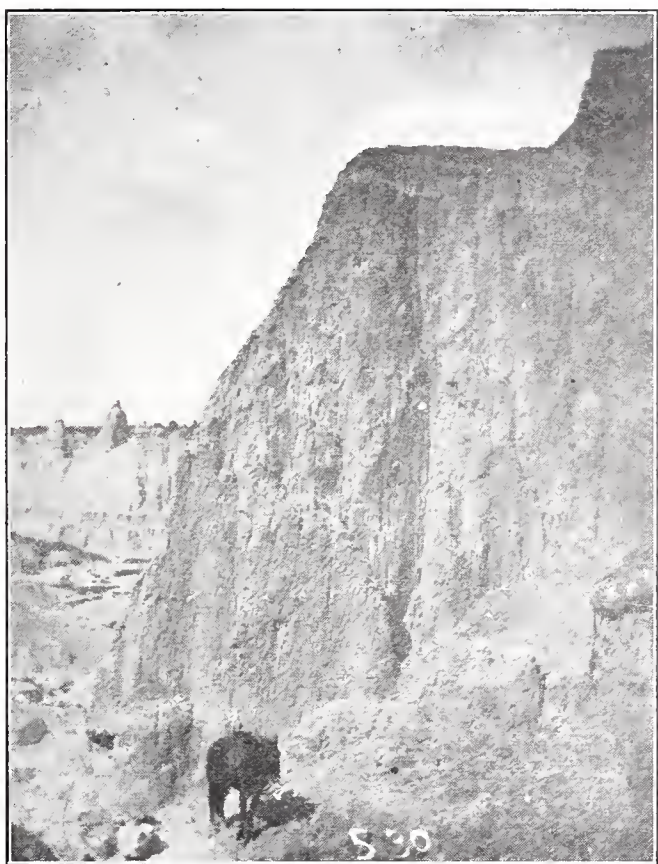
head—to pull pin in hard soil. The reason I use a large tent is this: I fasten one tent pole or post on the front end of the wagon box; use a short post on top of mess box and one pole or post at the end of the ridge pole to the ground; this makes it easy for one man to pitch his tent alone, even though there be some wind, and you have plenty of room in the tent for your harness, saddle, traps and furs; also, by having your wagon under the tent you need not carry a wagon cover, and if you are only stopping in one place a few days at a time you need not unload all your traps, etc., as when hunting dens in the spring.



CHAPTER IV.

HOW TO FIND A WOLF DEN

A BOUT the 5th to the 10th of April is a good time to commence to look for wolf dens. Take a saddle horse and ride back to the head of the big ravines, or if in the Bad Lands country, go over near the wall and look closely for wolf tracks. A good place to look for them is along a creek bed or draw, and if you see several tracks leading in the same direction—tracks made at different dates—follow them. They will lead you to a den. You may have to go a mile, and maybe four or six miles, and you may have to leave your horse and go on foot in order to get over the Bad Lands buttes. When you get within a quarter of a mile of the den there will be a beaten trail made by the old grays, and you will have no trouble in locating the den, unless the ground is very dry and hard. Keep this in mind: When you are following a wolf trail to a den she will go in a direct line, regardless of creeks, buttes, etc., and if the trail goes up a ravine and swings around and goes down another one, you may as well stop, as you will find no den. Now, when you find the den, and are sure the pups are born, close up the den at once. If there is no material close at hand to close up the hole, take your vest or coat and hang it in the entrance of the den, so if the old wolf is in the den she will not come out and get away. Even a handkerchief will keep her from

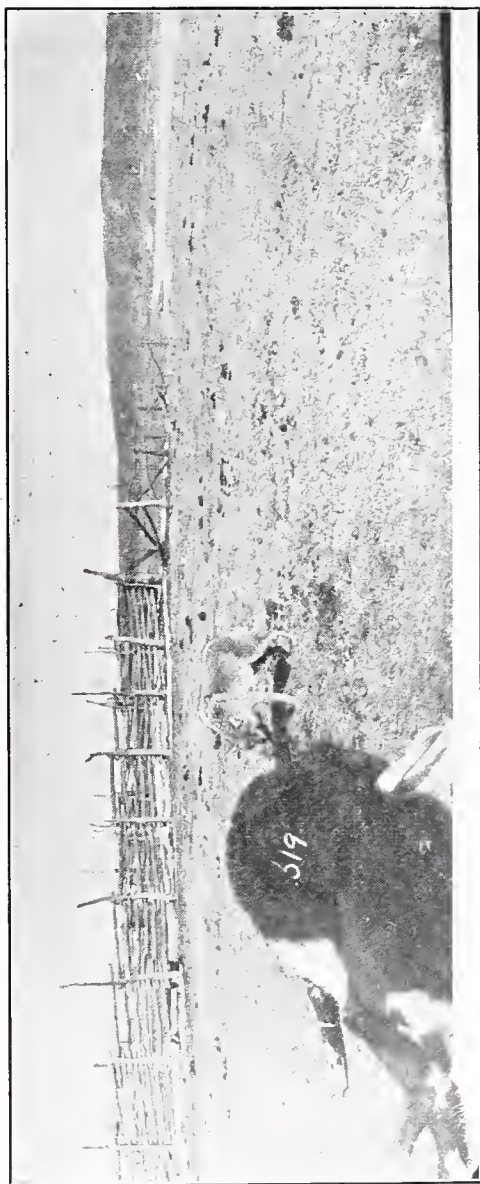


BAD LANDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA.
With Author's Saddle Horse in Foreground.

coming out, before dark, anyway. Most of the wolf dens are large enough so a small man can crawl in them; so, if you happen to be small, take a good light—I use an Ever-Ready Search Light or a Justrite Carbide Lamp and a good revolver or pistol. I use the Luger 30 calibre automatic pistol, which is a fine arm. Savage .32 automatic or the Colt's automatic pistol are also good. Have a canvas holster made so it will cover the pistol entire, so when you are creeping along in the den the dirt will not get in the action. Now, if the old she-wolf is in the den, she will get as far back as she can; and if the pups are small you may come to them first, and a sack is a handy thing to put them in. They will not hurt you, even though quite large, and the old wolf will not harm you until you wound her, which, most likely, you will have to do, as nine times out of ten she will have her back to you and you will not be able to shoot her in a quick-kill spot, but she will soon back up and turn around with her head towards you; and you had better shoot her quick, for any animal, when crowded in a hole and wounded, is apt to bite. They will stand a lot of shooting. Sometimes I have sent five or more .30 Luger bullets through them before killing them, and the .30 Luger will penetrate eleven inches of pine. Don't try to use a black-powder arm in a den; it will choke you. If you will hide yourself well near the den and keep a sharp lookout, about sundown or real early in the morning, you may get a shot at one of the old grays. A good rifle should be used, and by all means a high

power, as generally a wolf is not seen at close range. I am now using the Winchester Model 95 Carbine, 30 Gov., 1906 Cal., fitted with the Malcom 5 power telescopic sight. This arm is extremely accurate and holds up well, requiring no elevation up to 300 yards, is a powerful shooter, and works fine with reduced loads on small game. The Savage .22 high power is also a good arm for wolves, but does not line up well with different loads. The 250-300 Savage ought to be a good wolf gun. The 6 M-M is a good wolf gun. For killing wolves and coyotes, etc., in traps, I use a light load in the Luger automatic pistol, shooting them in the forehead just above line of eyes. This kills them quickly and does not spoil the fur. I believe in not torturing any animal, and when I first saw the little wolf pups, and how cute they were, I could hardly bare to kill them. Yet when we see a cow, steer or horse with its thighs torn in strips or its flanks all torn out, and see how the poor animal must suffer, it seems better to kill the wolf when small than to have them grow up and do so much damage to stock.

Some will tell you about gray wolves chasing a man or woman. This, I think, is untrue—at least in South Dakota, where there are so many cattle and horses loose on the range for the wolves to feed on. Several years ago the gray wolves ran in bunches. I have seen eleven in one bunch, and I once saw where fourteen of them went right by camp, their tracks in the snow showing just how many there were. It took lots of stock to feed a bunch of wolves, as they believe in

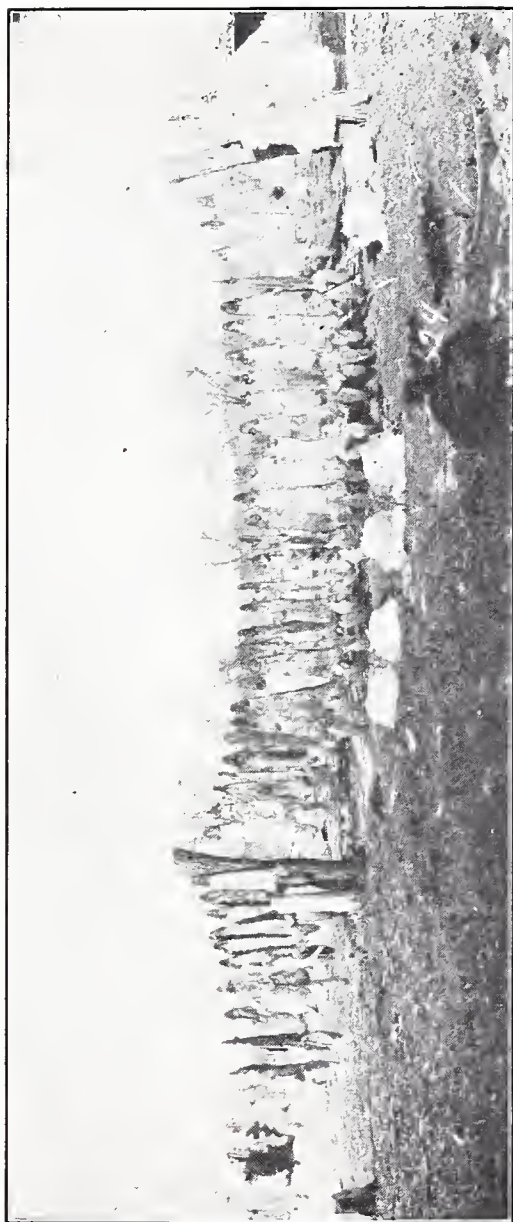


COYOTE CAUGHT BY AUTHOR, IN TRAP, BY DEAD COW.

keeping a full stomach. Some will speak of "a long, lank wolf." Now, I have taken the pelt off of several hundred wolves, large and small, and unless it happened to be one that had been packing a trap around for two or three weeks, they were always hog fat, even when bothered with a trap on one of their feet. The other wolves sometimes carry meat to them. This I know to be a fact. Several years ago, while wolfing for the UT Cattle Outfit over around Peno Springs, South Dakota, I caught a male wolf, near a den, which was almost black; his ears were brown, and also his ankles had a brown streak around them. He was about the regular size of the regular gray wolf, only was somewhat heavier through the shoulders. I also caught the she-wolf at the same den, but she got away. I got six pups out of the den. These were a very dark color; so I think the female wolf was a black wolf, too. Whether they were a breed of timber wolf or a cross between a dog and wolf, I can't say. They were very bold and would come up close to the ranch and kill a critter. The winter preceding the spring I got this bunch of pups and the old black wolf, we had a lot of snow, which made trapping wolves a hard deal, and when I told the UT foreman that I had found a wolf den he got mad and said: "That's the way with you d—— wolfers. You will not kill a wolf in the winter, but leave them to raise pups for the bounty." Well, I was only getting \$2.50 on each pup, so I told him from then on he could look for another wolfer, and I went and got the pups and jumped my

job. Poor fellow! He has since passed over the Great Divide. There are some ranchers who think that a wolfer will not kill a female wolf when caught in a trap, but turn her loose to raise more pups. There may be some truth in this, but I can truthfully say that I have never spared a single female. I have killed them in my traps within a week's time of their having their young, thereby losing the State bounty and also the Stockmen's bounty on the pups. Year ago last spring a pair of wolves fell into my traps, and the female wolf had her litter of pups after getting in the trap. By rights I should have had bounty on them. Several years ago I caught two wolves in one setting of traps at the same time, and these traps were set on a trail not over two feet apart. This was in October, and one was an old female, the other a spring pup, although full grown. Seems queer how they both got caught so close together, as either wolf could reach both traps. Any one wishing a postcard picture of these two wolves in the traps can get same by sending five cents to the author.

There seems to be a difference in the wolves in regard to their killing stock. Some of them will be around among the stock often and not do much killing. Then again some of them seem to kill a lot of stock in a few days. Some few years ago an old wolf and four pups came around here to get acquainted with us fellows. It was in June—the latter part—and in less than a week's time I found eight head of cattle and one colt that she had killed. I was just getting break-



HIDES SOLD BY AUTHOR FOR \$150.00. WOLF, COYOTE, BOB CAT, RED FOX AND BADGER.

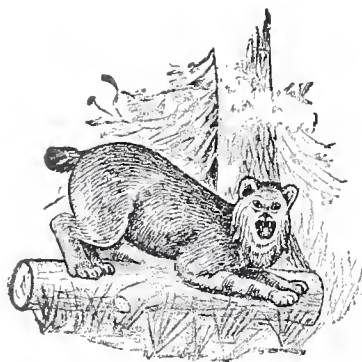


GRAY WOLF IN TRAP, CAUGHT BY AUTHOR.

fast one morning when I heard the cattle bellowing, and, thinking they were just around a dead critter that had died with the black-leg some days before, I did not pay any attention to them; but, while eating breakfast, I again heard some cattle making a great fuss. This time it sounded closer, and in a more easterly direction. Listening a few minutes, I could plainly hear a critter bellowing as if something had a hold of it, and knew the wolves must be making a killing, so I ran out to my corral and caught a saddle horse, saddled him, and, taking my rifle, I loped over to where I thought the noise came from, and as I rode over a ridge saw five wolves running up a Bad Land hill—too far off to do any good with the rifle, and too rough a country to chase them. Going down in the ravine where they seemed to start from, I found a 3-year-old heifer with her hips all eaten out. She was still alive, but unable to get up. I notified the owner of her, and he said, "Kill her." So I put her out of her misery and set some traps around the carcass, but the wolves failed to come back. I found, a few days later, where they had just killed a calf, so I put some strychnine in it, and they *did* return and eat some of the meat, and I guess it made them feel funny; at least they quit killing around here. I lost a fine colt by them, so wasn't sorry when they let up.

It is very hard to trap them in warm weather. They do not follow trails much, and will hardly ever go near a bait. They seem to move around only when hungry, preferring to lie around in some deep canyon

in the shade or among some cedar trees near a spring. There is very little use trying to trap them much before the nights are cool enough for frost. I have tried to trap them in September, and have found out a fellow might as well save his time and saddle horses.





FRESH MEAT IN CAMP.



A TOUGH COUNTRY TO TRAVEL IN.

CHAPTER V.

BOUNTIES PAID BY THE STATE AND STOCKMEN

THE State of South Dakota pays a bounty of \$5 for each grown wolf and \$2 on each wolf pup; also \$2 on both old and young coyotes.

The ranchers have a pool bounty of \$15 on each old wolf, and a bounty of \$5 on each wolf pup. This bounty covers a strip of country about 15x30 miles.

Also several private ranchmen pay a bounty of \$5 to \$20 on each old wolf and \$3 on pups, and will often board a wolfer and his horses free. Some large outfits hire by the month, paying the wolfer \$50 and board per month. For instance, the 6L, for which I have done considerable wolfing, and what was one time a large stock outfit, in the Bad Lands of South Dakota. They still own several thousand acres of land in a fine stock country. Have some fine, ranches, buildings, etc.

The 6L cattle used to range from the east point of the Bad Lands, on the north side of White River, to Rapid City, which is about 100 miles; so you can see I had some country to hunt wolves in, and more than one-half of this country is Bad Lands, the natural home of the gray wolf. This country has certainly got rid of more wolves in the last fifteen years than most all the rest of the stockmen combined, and has paid out thousands of dollars to wolfers hired to hunt and trap the wolves by the mouth.

CHAPTER VI.

THE BAD LANDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IT is hard to explain how the Bad Lands are and really do look. Even the photos do not do them justice in regard to their size. They are a continuous and also a broken mass of buttes, from the little mounds looking like some kid had been at work with a shovel, to the big giant buttes, over 600 feet high—places where no living thing except the hawk or eagle ever looked upon. Some of these high buttes are covered with cedar trees, some with grass, and some are bare as a swept floor. Some places you will see a ledge of rock running in a straight line up a butte. Some places large boulders, ten to thirty feet across, will be seen in bunches. There are several Bad Land specimens to be found here yet, such as petrified turtles, animal heads, jaw bones, etc. This country has been well looked over for these specimens, but the rains keep washing more of them out where they can be seen.





A LOUVAIN IN THE BAD LANDS.



Caught by the Hind Foot, and Also Under Jaw. Range Cattle in Background.

CHAPTER VII.

THE BAD LANDS AS A STOCK COUNTRY

THE Bad Lands of South Dakota are, in places, almost like stock sheds, and in the winter-time afford a splendid shelter for cattle and horses; and many thousands of horses and cattle run at large the year round in them, only being rounded up to brand or get a saddle horse, or to get a shipment of stock. The worst drawback is the gray wolf, but these animals are, in most places, getting scarcer, and not one-fifth the damage is done by them as a few years ago. Some places on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Reservations, where the country is very thinly settled, and still a good many horses and cattle range, the wolves are still quite numerous and do a lot of damage, and as this country is mostly settled by the Indians, and they, as a rule, do not take the trouble to hunt or kill the wolves, even when the wolves are killing their horses and cattle. The Indians, as a rule, live only along the creeks and rivers, very few of them living back any distance from the streams.



CHAPTER VIII.

HOW TO SKIN A WOLF; ALSO A COYOTE

IN trapping wolves and coyotes, a person can make a neat sum out of the furs if killed in cold weather and properly taken care of. In skinning coyotes, cut down each rear leg and across same, as when skinning a beef. Pull hide off over head. Now, take two narrow strips of $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch board and taper them off at one end. Make them same as you would a mink or muskrat stretcher, only larger; stretch the coyote pelt on, fur side in.

For a gray wolf, cut down rear legs and across, same as for coyote; but also cut down center of body from tail to end of lower jaw. Stretch hide out as even as you can, and always keep all fur pelts in shade to cure—never in the sun. Don't use any salt, unless in fly-time. Then put salt in ears, nose and hole where tail bone was; also split tail clear to end, or else the salt will form water in end and may cause end of tail to slip. In packing furs for shipment, don't fold them; put them in a nice bundle and ship in gunney sacks. These will let air in and keep furs in good order. Sew sacks up tight; don't tie them. If you have a fresh wolf or coyote skin that has considerable blood on it, wash it all out before it dries. This will more than pay you for your trouble.



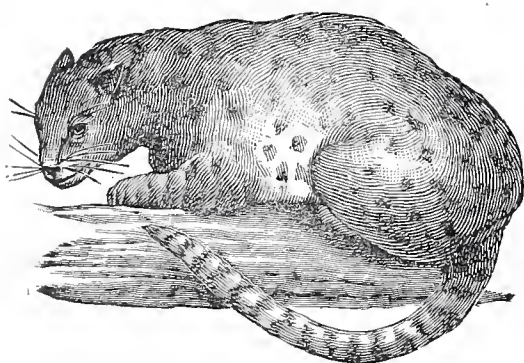
PHOTO OF AUTHOR
Watching for Wolves in South Dakota Bad Lands
(Mixed Creek Region).

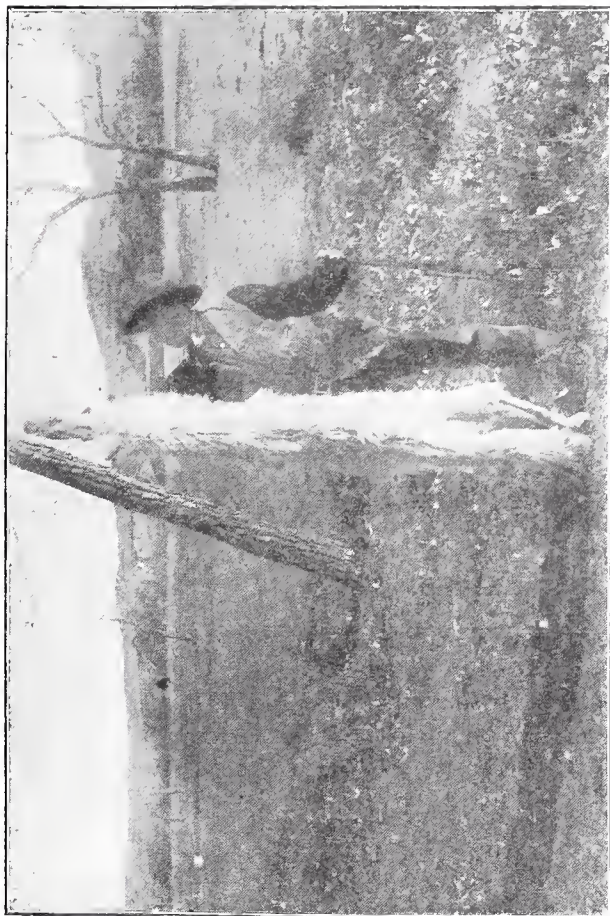
CHAPTER IX.

GAME FOUND IN THE SOUTH DAKOTA BAD LANDS

OF the fur-bearing animals found in the Bad Lands of South Dakota, counties of Pennington, Stanley, Washabaugh and Washington, there are the gray wolf, the coyote, bob cat, a few red foxes and skunks. The other kinds of game are the jack and cottontail rabbits, which are very plentiful; some grouse, and, along the streams in spring and fall, wild ducks of several kinds. A few wild geese and crane go through here, but do not stop much. We also have the little pests, prairie dogs, and there are millions of them, some towns covering several miles, and they eat the grass down to the very roots, even digging up the roots. If their fur was of some value, there would be more money in trapping prairie dogs than the gray wolf—possibly not so interesting, though.







White Wolf, Trapped by Bud Dalrymple, Scenic, South Dakota, 1913.

